

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the Cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

February 28, 2013 to March 19, 2013

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal authorization action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

USDOT/Federal Highway Administration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Elizabeth River Crossing Opco, LLC has proposed modifications to the Elizabeth River Tunnels project to be constructed in the Cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk. This project is part of the Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/Martin Luther King Extension project (formerly known as the Midtown Tunnel Corridor project) previously reviewed by the Commonwealth in 2012 (DEQ 12-080F). The project consists, in part, of the construction of a new immersed tunnel under the Elizabeth River, running generally parallel to the existing tunnel. The modifications include the elimination of the pile installation under tunnel elements 1, 2, 3 and 11. The proposed dredge depths have been increased in these areas in order to remove soft clay materials which will then be backfilled with granular fill. This will result in a reduction in the area to be dredged from 25.2 acres to 20.9 acres, and the volume of dredge material will be reduced from 1,500,000 cubic yards to approximately 1,300,000 cubic yards. In addition, the location and design of the temporary ancillary structures has changed and timber pilings will be used to support the turbidity curtains to be installed during dredging and excavation operations. Elizabeth River Crossing Opco, LLC has submitted a Federal Consistency Certification that finds the proposed modifications consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NAME; John E. Fisher
DEQ Central Office
Office of Environmental Impact Review
629 East Main Street, Room 633
Richmond, Virginia, 23219;

Phone: (804) 698-4339
Fax: (804) 698-4319
E-mail: john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov